



MIAMI TOWNSHIP FIRE & EMS CLERMONT COUNTY, OHIO *PROCEDURE PROTOCOLS*



RAPID GLUCOSE ASSAY PROCEDURE

Indications

1. Any time a rapid blood glucose assay may improve the treatment of a patient.

Procedure

1. Prepare equipment to obtain and test the blood sample. Be sure not to contaminate the test strip when inserting it into the glucometer.
2. Select a suitable site to obtain a capillary blood sample. ALL rapid blood glucose specimens **MUST** be taken from a fingertip. At no time should a venous blood sample be used for a rapid blood glucose assay.
3. Cleanse the site with alcohol and wipe dry with a 4 X 4 or clean cloth. Be sure test site is completely dry before doing the finger stick.
4. A blood sample must be collected within 3 minutes of inserting the test strip into the glucometer.
5. When the patient's finger has been stuck, hold end of test strip to the drop of blood until after the meter beeps.
 - A. Assure that an adequate amount of blood is available for testing.
 - B. The meter will beep only after the blood collection chamber has been filled.
 - C. Placing of the patient's hand below the level of their heart and squeezing of the fingertip may be required. Forceful squeezing of the fingertip will not adversely affect the result of the blood sample.

Notes:

1. It is very important that the patient's and care provider's hands are clean, including gloved hands, before a blood sample is obtained. If Oral Glucose or some other item (food, candy, beverages, etc.) has been given to the patient prior to EMS obtaining a rapid blood glucose assay, the patient's hand must be cleaned. Contamination of the puncture site by glucose or other form of sugar will result in a higher reading.